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AMENDMENTIn the Claims:

Claim 16 is amended as follows:

16. (Amended) A substrate for capturing antigens, comprising a support having on its surface purified immobilized empty Class I molecules, wherein said Class I molecules are capable of binding one or more antigens, and wherein said substrate is not a lipid bilayer.

Claim 17 is amended as follows:

17. (Amended) The substrate of claim 16 wherein the substrate is a bead.

Claims 18 is amended as follows:

18. (Amended) The substrate of claim 16 wherein the one or more antigens are peptides.

RESPONSE

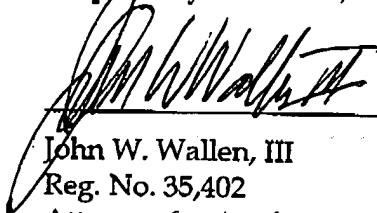
1. Claims 1-23 were originally filed with this application. Claims 16-18 have been amended herein. Claims 1-15 and 19-23 have been previously cancelled, without prejudice. Claims 16, 17 and 18 have been amended herein. As a result of this amendment, Claims 16-18 remain in this application. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claim by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version With Markings To Show Changes Made".
2. Claims 16 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 5,731,160. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claim 16 has been amended to recite that "the substrate is not a lipid bilayer". It is therefore believed that claim 16 as

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amended herein clearly distinguishes the present claims from the teachings of US Patent No. 5,731,160 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e).

3. Claims 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claim 17 has been amended to delete the word "matrix" and recite in its place "substrate". Claim 18 has been amended to delete the word "antigen" and insert in its place "one or more antigens are peptides". It is therefore believed that claims 17 and 18 as amended herein provide proper antecedent basis, and satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.
4. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider all objections and rejections of the claims of this application, and allowance of the claims is requested. No fee is due for the amendment set forth above.

Respectfully submitted,



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